(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बिजली की कटौती से कई लघु और बड़े उद्योग प्रभावित हुए हैं और इनमें से ऐसे कितने उद्योग हैं जो बन्द कर दिये गये हैं ?

श्रम मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० ए० संगमा) : (क) और (ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है व सभा पटल पर रख दी जायेगी ।

Pension Scheme for Working Journalists

351. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is contemplating a monthly pension scheme for working journalists ; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Government has since decided to introduce a Pension Scheme for the EPF subscribers including working journalists.

(b) The proposed Pension Scheme provides for payment of monthly pension in the contingencies of retirement, super-annuation, permanent total disablement, death etc. The amount of monthly pension will depend upon the pensionable service and pensionable salary of the member. Minimum 10 years membership of the fund will be required for entitlement to pension.

352. [*Transferred to 14th December, 1993*].

National Wage Policy for Labour

353. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a national wage policy to secure a fair deal for labour ;

(b) whether Government are aware that the absence of such a policy is the root cause for industrial unrest and low productivity ; and

(c) whether Government would consider it expedient to constitute regional wage boards to arrest inter-state migration of labour due to disparity in minimum wages ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c) The insue relating to formulation of a National Wage Policy has been considered by various fora in the past. A Group of State Labour Ministers in September. 1985 decided that it might not be feasible to frame a National Wage policy at the present stage. This subject was also considered by the Indian Labour Conference (ILC) held in November. 1985. The ILC expressed the view that "till such time a national wage is feasible it would be desirable to have regional minimum wage in regard to which the Central Government may lay down the guidelines. The minimum wages should be revised at regular periodicity and should be linked with rise in cost of living". Accordingly, the Government have issued guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages in July, 1987 to all the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The State Governments/U.T. Administrations were also requested to provide for variable Dearness Allowance linked to consumer price index, as a part of minimum wages, to be revised every six months. As a sequel to the recommendation of the I.L.C. 1985, the Government framed guidelines on Regional Minimum Wages and the country was accordingly divided into six regions. The Conference of the Regional Labour Ministers of five regions, namely, Eastern Region, North-Eastern Region. Southern Region, Northern Region and Western Region, have already taken place to consider the regional issues relating to wages.

Visit of German Parliamentary Delegation to India

354. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that a delegation of influential German Parliamentarians

visited India recently to review the progress of two German-aided projects in India for the elimination of child labour;

(b) whether Government are aware of a marked slump in imports of carpets by Germany from India, in view of the German buyers' resentment of a large number of child labour engaged by Indian carpet industry; and

(c) whether as a part of this German-aided project, pre-project surveys have been completed in three child labour project areas namely; Carpet Industry (Mizapur-Bhadohi), Gemstone polishing (Jaipur) and Match Industry (Sivakasi) and if so, the summary of the survey reports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no slump in imports of carpets by Germany from India.

(c) Two surveys on "Child Labour in The Carpet Industry in Mirzapur-Bhadohi" and "Child Labour in Gem Polishing Industry of Jaipur" were carried out by the International Labour Organisation, New Delhi as a preliminary activity of the German aided project "Child Labour Action & Support Programme". Both the surveys have analysed the nature of the specific industry, the reason for prevalance of child labour in the industry, strategy of special schools taken up under the National Child Labour Policy, etc.

Retrenchment of Workers under Exit Policy

355. **PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:**

(a) the number of workers retrenched or whose services were dispensed with **under the exit policy during the last three years including the current year;**

(b) what would be the number of fresh **employment in existing factories and new ones, if any;**

(c) whether Government have any plans to secure reinstatement of workers mentioned above; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) to (d) There is no policy in the Govt. which can be termed "Exit Policy". However in order to rationalise workforce central public sector undertakings have so far adopted Voluntary Retirement Scheme. According to the available information during the last 3 years namely, 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93, 78,562 employees have opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme in 100 central public sector undertakings.

The Govt. has established the National Renewal Fund to protect the interest of workers who may be affeced by technological transformation under the new Industrial Policy. One of the objectives of the National Renewal Fund is to provide assistance to cover the cost of retraining and redeployment of employees as a result of modernisation, technological upgradation and industrial restructuring.

The major thrust of the 8th Five Year Plan is on employment. The 8th Five Year Plan emphasises faster growth of sectors, sub-sectors and areas, which have relatively high employment potential. Faster growth of the small and decentralised manufacturing sector, expansion of infrastructure, development of rural non-farm sector, wasteland development, crop-wise diversified agricultural development, etc. are the basic elements of the employment oriented growth strategy envisaged in the Plan. The employment strategy is expected to generate 42.5 million additional employment opportunities during the period 1992—97. Of this, 6.5 million are expected to be generated in the manufacturing sector.

Provident Fund Scheme for Beedi Workers

356. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce a Provident Fund Scheme for Beedi Workers throughout the country;